

## **Minutes of DAAC Meeting**

### **Attendance**

DAAC members present were: Seren Derin (SD), Chair; Irene Barrelet (IB), Clerk; Gerry Weiss; Jim MacRostie (JM); and Joan Swift (JS); Dana Goddard (DG); and Nathaniel Malloy, DAAC staff liaison.

Others present were: Tory Dixon

Absent: Joe Tringali (JT), Vice-chair;

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### **CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Derin called the meeting to order at 11:34 a.m.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

IB recommended that John Musante, as the new Town Manager, attend an upcoming meeting to be introduced to the committee.

### **MINUTES**

Minutes from the October 12, 2010 and November 16, 2010 meetings were reviewed and approved unanimously (5-0) (IB moved, JM second) as submitted.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Jones Library Elevator**

Mr. Malloy reported that he had spoken with Tevis Kimball, the interim director for the Jones Library. She informed him that the repairs to the main elevator were under contract and the work should begin soon. The Library Trustees continue to meet upstairs; however, she noted that no one had requested that the meeting be relocated due to accessibility issues. The Trustees would be willing to move their meetings if given ample notice.

The Committee agreed of the importance of holding all public meetings in an accessible location, and asked that staff follow-up with the library before next meeting to learn of the project's status.

#### **Update to the Town's Disability Access Transition Plan**

The Town's Plan was last updated in late 2006/early 2007, and is nearing its five-year update to learn what activities and projects have been implemented, and what improvements are still necessary. The current plan lists projects with a priority ranking, timeline, and possible sources of funding—the update would begin by reviewing the list of projects.

SD recommended that Eunice Torres, Human Resources Director, attend a DAAC meeting in February or March to discuss her experience when she worked on the 2006-07 Update. It would be useful to hear her methodology and approach to working with the various departments and facilities in town.

The committee discussed the role of improved technology, such as video relay, which can be used for accessible communication and may be more relevant than TTY's. The new transition plan update would need to include this information.

GW recommended that each department reference the Transition Plan when making budget proposals to the Joint Capital Planning Committee (JCPC). This is the only mechanism to direct funds at projects that improve accessibility. It was also recommended that the Select Board and Town Manager be contacted to let them know there needs to be a better system to incorporate accessibility improvements into the annual budget process, and there needs to be some accountability when the projects are not implemented.

#### Other

SD said that she had sent a letter to the Select Board, Department of Public Works and the Public Works Committee regarding snow removal in municipal lots, but had not heard any response. It was recommended that the memo be sent again.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### Theta Chi Fraternity Variance Request

The committee agreed that a letter should be sent to the Office of Greek Affairs as well as the Office for Disabled Students at UMass to discuss the implications of renovation projects that do not include accessibility improvements—that those with disabilities are not welcome to join a fraternity.

#### UMass Fine Arts Center

Representatives from UMass will attend the committee's February meeting to discuss accessibility improvements to the Fine Arts Center, and issues that are still a concern:

- ~ The glass entry doors are extremely heavy and should be automated,
- ~ To enter the theatre from the box office, need to go outside to use the only accessible entrance,
- ~ The Rand Theatre only has steps and no ramps inside—wheelchairs and others with mobility impairments can only sit in back row, and
- ~ The HP parking is not along the shortest route to the theatre's main entrance.

#### HP Parking in Boltwood Lot

GW recommended that the Select Board be contacted with the issue of adding a van accessible parking space in the Boltwood Parking Lot, as they have jurisdiction over the Town's right of ways. The addition of a van accessible parking space behind the Monkey Bar is not an issue of meeting the regulations and requirements; it is doing the right thing and accommodating the citizens of Amherst who park and shop in the Town Center.

#### Crocker Farm Elementary School Playground

SD asked whether the schools are included in the Town's Transition Plan, and if so, who oversees the implementation of accessible improvement projects. It was recommended that the committee talk to the principal of Crocker Elementary to help raise awareness of the accessibility issues of the playground and HP parking.

**Materials Distributed at Meeting** (available upon request in the Planning Department at Town Hall)

Agenda  
October 12, 2010 Meeting Minutes  
November 16, 2010 Meeting Minutes  
Conflict of Interest Acknowledgment Form

**Next Meeting(s)**

January 11, 2010 @ 11:30 a.m.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Nathaniel Malloy, staff liaison